

104-7177/21

23 NOV 1964

The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of 24 October concerning IAP-64: Intelligence Assumptions for Planning - Soviet Military Forces Through Mid-1970. I am glad to know that you found this document useful, and will with pleasure pass on your remarks to the members of the United States Intelligence Board.

We too have been thinking about ways in which this document might be improved in the future. With respect to the particular suggestions contained in your letter, we have already devised a procedure for updating the IAP. We plan to revise the first three sections immediately after the appearance of the pertinent NIE's; Section I, on Strategic Attack Forces, is currently being done. The remainder of the paper will be updated immediately after the publication of the NIE's on Soviet Military Policy and Soviet Foreign Policy, or for the present cycle, in the spring of 1965. We are also mindful of the need to correlate economic and order of battle information, and we plan to take advantage of your offer to make available data on the costs of US weapons systems to assist us. Finally, it is our objective over the longer term to make the document as comprehensive as possible.

I will look forward to receiving your more detailed comments and suggestions on the IAP.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN A. MCCONE

John A. McCone
Director

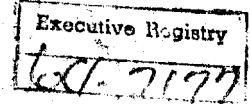
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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

24 OCT 1964

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Honorable John A. McCone
Director of Central Intelligence

Dear John:

I was very pleased to receive the new IAP-64: Intelligence Assumptions for Planning - Soviet Military Forces Through Mid-1970.

This document has several very useful features that represent a substantial advance over previous intelligence publications:

1. Inclusion of the entire Soviet defense program summarized in one document is a great convenience. As you know, we have done this for our own program in the Five Year Force Structure and Financial Program.
2. Systematic projection of Soviet forces through 1970 provides a better match to our information requirements for decisions on long lead-time equipment and forces, even though the projections are assumptions and not firm estimates.
3. Summary projection of the whole Soviet program helps us to avoid some of the distortions that have resulted from a piecemeal approach in the past.
4. Correlation of information on forces with available information and necessary assumptions as to costs, manpower, fissionable materials, and other resource requirements, is bound to improve the quality of our estimates, to help us understand Soviet planning and thinking, and especially to help us avoid exaggeration of Soviet programs.
5. Inclusion of historical data beginning with 1961 helps us to understand better the trends in Soviet forces. I very much hope that future updatings of the IAP will maintain the 1961 baseline and extend all forces back to it.

I believe that there are several useful lines of development along which to proceed, including:

1. The value of the document can be maintained only if there is a systematic procedure for regular updating promptly after the issue of new National Intelligence Estimates and "memoranda to holders of record," including the highlighting and analysis of changes from the previous issue.

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2. We need to continue our efforts to strengthen the analytical basis of long-range intelligence projections, especially the correlation of economic (cost, production capacity, etc.) information and order of battle information. In particular, estimates of the U.S. costs of Soviet weapon systems are proving to be especially useful in many of our strategic studies, and we would appreciate more and better information of this kind. In order to get this, I know that you need accurate historical data on costs of U.S. weapon systems, and I believe that all elements of the Department of Defense should cooperate with you in providing such information.

3. The document, or companion documents, should include other Communist Bloc forces.

Please express to the members of the United States Intelligence Board my appreciation for this very useful document.

Later this autumn I hope to forward more detailed comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

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